

Message Text

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FOR: GORDON CARTWRIGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:WMO, TGEN

SUBJECT: INFORMATION PAPER: TOWARD AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM
AND REGIME FOR WEATHER MODIFICATIO; RESEARCH

1. AS AGREED BETWEEN NOAA AND STATE AND APPROVED BY THE
NSC AD HOC GROUP ON WEATHER MODIFICATION, THE FOLLOWING IS
THE TEXT OF AN INFORMATION PAPER ON AN INTERNATIONAL AP-
PROACH TO WEATHER MODIFICATION FOR TABLING AT THE WMO/EC
MEETING. PLEASE PROVIDE CABLE NOTIFICATION WHEN PAPER HAS
BEEN PRESENTED.

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2. QUOTE: TOWARD AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM AND REGIME FOR
WEATHER MODIFICATION RESEARCH

IT IS THE NATURE OF METEOROLOGY AND WEATHER THAT MANY OF ITS
ASPECTS WHICH APPEAR VERY LOCAL ARE IN FACT SIMPLY LOCAL
MANIFESTATIONS OF LARGE-SCALE EVENTS. BY THE SAME TOKEN,
WHAT HAPPENS LOCALLY MAY OFTEN HAVE PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON

EVENTS VERY FAR AWAY. WHEN DEALING WITH WEATHER MODIFICATION, AND IN PARTICULAR WITH DELIBERATE WEATHER MODIFICATION, IT BECOMES ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO INSIST THAT ANY ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM IS TRULY LOCAL. INDEED, MUCH OF WHAT IS DONE, OR ATTEMPTED, IN THE NAME OF WEATHER MODIFICATION CAN BE INHERENTLY OF A MULTI-NATIONAL SCOPE. EXAMPLES OF THIS MIGHT BE PRECIPITATION ENHANCEMENT IN A SMALL COUNTRY WHERE EXTENDED EFFECTS MAY WELL OCCUR IN NEIGHBORING

STATES, OR IN THE EXPERIMENTAL EFFORTS TO MODIFY HURRICANES OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS.

THE POTENTIAL OF WEATHER MODIFICATION FOR BENEFITTING HUMANITY IS GREAT. FOR SEVERAL VERY IMPORTANT REASONS THERE IS A GREAT NEED TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL MECHANISM AND PROGRAM FOR WEATHER MODIFICATION RESEARCH. IN EXAMINING THIS PROBLEM, WE WILL NEED TO CONSIDER VARIOUS APPROACHES THAT WILL MAKE POSSIBLE A UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL REGIME FOR WEATHER MODIFICATION. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE WMO AND, AS APPROPRIATE, OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE PRINCIPLES THAT WILL UNDERLIE SUCH A MECHANISM IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK SCIENTISTS OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD WILL NEED TO AGREE ON WHAT DELIBERATE WEATHER MODIFICATION IS OR IS NOT CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING, SO THAT A MEANINGFUL INTERNATIONAL ACCORD CAN BE WRITTEN.

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THE NEED THEREFORE IS TO PROVIDE AN INTERNATIONAL SET OF GOALS AND PRINCIPLES PERTAINING TO AN INTERNATIONAL WEATHER MODIFICATION REGIME.

AN IMPORTANT REASON TO TRY TO DEVELOP AN INTERNATIONAL ACCORD ON WEATHER MODIFICATION RESEARCH IS TO AVOID THE IMPEDIMENTS TO SUCH RESEARCH THAT CAN OCCUR WHEN THE EXPERIMENTS THEMSELVES MUST BE CARRIED OUT OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS OR OVER TERRITORIES THAT INVOLVE MORE THAN ONE NATION. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL MECHANISM FOR WEATHER MODIFICATION CAN, WE BELIEVE, FACILITATE THIS KIND OF RESEARCH. WE ALSO MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THE POTENTIAL USERS OF WEATHER MODIFICATION ARE OFTEN NOT THE NATIONS WHO HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO DEVELOP THE NECESSARY RESEARCH CAPABILITIES AND CONDUCT EXPERIMENTS. BECAUSE IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD THAT OTHER NATIONS ARE ABLE TO MINIMIZE THE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF NATURAL DISASTERS, IT IS DESIRABLE TO PRODUCE WEATHER MODIFICATION CAPABILITIES THAT ARE USEFUL TO AND CAN BE EMPLOYED BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THROUGH AN OPEN, BROAD PROGRAM OF WEATHER MODIFICATION RESEARCH WITH SUBSTANTIAL INTERNATIONAL

INVOLVEMENT THESE CAPABILITIES WILL BE MADE MORE USEFUL
AND AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

THE DESIGN OF AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FOR WEATHER
MODIFICATION RESEARCH MUST RECOGNIZE A NUMBER OF CONSTRAINTS
AND CONDITIONS. FIRST OF ALL, IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED
THAT THERE IS A WIDE RANGE OF PURPOSES FOR WHICH WEATHER
MODIFICATION MAY BE CARRIED OUT, A WIDE RANGE OF GEOGRAPHY
WHERE THE BENEFITS MAY ACCRUE. WEATHER MODIFICATION EXPER-
IMENTS ARE CARRIED OUT IN VERY PARTICULAR LOCATIONS UNDER
LOCAL CONTROL, BUT THEIR APPLICATION MAY BE MUCH WIDER.

THE PROGRAMS HAVE TO BE CARRIED OUT IN SUCH A WAY THAT
THERE IS A SUFFICIENT BASE OF SCIENTIFIC MEASUREMENTS AND
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INVESTIGATIONS THAT THE TRANSFERABILITY OF THE RESULTS
CAN BE REALIZED. WHILE INTERNATIONAL WEATHER MODIFICATION
PROGRAMS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN AN OPEN INTERNATIONAL
FORUM, IT MUST BE REALIZED THAT ULTIMATELY THE PROGRAMS
WILL BE PAID FOR BY GOVERNMENTS OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZA-
TIONS AND CARRIED OUT BY GROUPS VIA PUBLIC INVESTMENTS.
A FINAL CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CAPA-
BILITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO CARRY OUT WEATHER MODIFICA-
TION ACTIVITIES AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE RESEARCH EFFORTS
THEMSELVES. AN APPROPRIATELY DESIGNED INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAM SHOULD BE ALSO AN EFFECTIVE MEDIUM WHICH WILL
FURTHER THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGY AND SELF-
SUFFICIENCIES IN THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

WITH THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT
WMO AND OTHER INTERESTED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
EXAMINE POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM AND LEGAL REGIME FOR WEATHER MODIFI-
CATION PROGRAMS OF A MULTINATIONAL CHARACTER.

INCLUDED IN OUR CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE THE FOLLOWING
AREAS:

A. WHAT SHOULD BE THE PROPER INSTRUMENT FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL WEATHER MODIFICATION
REGIME? SHOULD THERE BE, FOR EXAMPLE, A NEW INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION? CAN IT BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH ANOTHER
MECHANISM?

B. HOW SHOULD WEATHER MODIFICATION RESEARCH BE ENCOURAGED,
APPROVED AND FUNDED UNDER INTERNATIONAL SPONSORSHIP?

C. HOW CAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DEVELOP THEIR OWN SCIEN-
TIFIC RESEARCH AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIFIC PROGRAMS DEALING WITH WEATHER MODIFICATION?

D. HOW SHOULD NEW PROJECTS BE DEVELOPED THROUGH THE INVOLVEMENT OF MORE THAN ONE COUNTRY IN TERMS OF COOPERATION, FUNDING, ETC.

E. HOW CAN WE BETTER MAKE AVAILABLE THE RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH TO INTERESTED COUNTRIES AT THE LOWEST COST?

F. WHAT OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN ADDITION TO WMO?

A POSSIBLE APPROACH UNDER AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM WOULD BE CREATING AN INTERNATIONAL WEATHER MODIFICATION BOARD OR PANEL THAT WOULD HAVE THE TASK OF REVIEWING OR ESTABLISHING AN ARRAY OF PROJECTS WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM. THEY MIGHT DEFINE THE SPECIFIC MINIMUM DESIGN STANDARDS FOR EACH OF THOSE IN ORDER FOR IT TO BE INCLUDED AMONG THE APPROVED PROGRAMS. SUCH A BOARD OR PANEL SHOULD CONSIST OF AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF EXPERTS NOMINATED IN SOME JOINT WAY BY THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION, INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS (ICSU), AND THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM. ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE FOR THE BOARD TO CONSIST OF FIVE NOMINEES FROM WMO, TWO FROM ICSU AND TWO FROM UNEP. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD ITSELF WOULD BE SUPPORTED OUT OF THE WMO SECRETARIAT. THIS SAME BOARD, OR PERHAPS A MODIFIED BOARD AT A LATER DATE, WOULD ALSO HAVE THE TASK OF CONSIDERING AND ACTING ON PROJECTS PROPOSED TO THEM TO BE IMPLEMENTED AS PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM. THE BOARD COULD ALSO BE CHARGED WITH ENCOURAGING INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO IMPLEMENT PARTICULAR DESIRABLE PROJECTS.

SINCE INDIVIDUAL WEATHER MODIFICATION PROJECTS ARE MULTIYEAR EFFORTS, AN INTERNATIONAL WEATHER MODIFICATION RESEARCH PROGRAM MUST BE CONSIDERED AS A PROGRAM OF LONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DURATION. IT MUST BE A PROGRAM THAT IS SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE THAT IT CAN CHANGE AS OUR KNOWLEDGE AND THE CONDITIONS OF THE WORLD CHANGE. IT IS REMINISCENT IN SOME LIMITED ASPECTS OF THE WORLD WEATHER WATCH, UNDER WHICH THE UNITED STATES, THE SOVIET UNION, AND AUSTRALIA OPERATE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CENTERS, AND UNDER WHICH COOPERATIVE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION IS

REGULARLY PROVIDED.

FINALLY, THE SUPPORT FOR A PROGRAM UNDER A NEW INTERNATIONAL REGIME WOULD COME BOTH FROM NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND FROM UNITED NATIONS SOURCES, SUCH AS UNEP, ETC. THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AS WELL AS GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE INVOLVED. THE REGIME WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE INCLUSIVE BUT PERMIT BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS FOR SEPARATE PROGRAMS AS APPROPRIATE. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U.S. WILL BE PREPARED TO ELABORATE ON THIS CONCEPT FURTHER AT AN EARLY APPROPRIATE TIME.

END QUOTE. VANCE

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